

The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250

“Faith Active in Love”

www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Volume 46

September 2024

Issue 9

We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and Sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Images of the Season: Autumn



Flowering meadow on the Salt Creek north of the Brookfield Zoo.

A visit to an antique shop or second-hand store reveals the “in between” way in which objects are categorized. An old tattered quilt, an incomplete set of dishes, a refinished chest of drawers, faded paintings and pictures that are too good to throw away—all of these items remind us that

times passes, yet has not concluded. Likewise, an item's worth can change: its value increases for some and it decreases for others. An in-between time, betwixt the beginnings and endings, the feasts and the fasts—this is autumn liturgy.

In a way, autumn is an arbitrary and ambiguous time of the year. With the post-Pentecost season's length extending from early summer to early winter, the church often struggles with a focus at this midpoint. Of course, it is a time for continuing growth in faith, a time for building on the foundations that have been witnessed through the resurrection appearances. Yet the challenge of this time of year often overwhelms. Where is the church headed? It is like waiting for a train that can be heard in the distance, yet seems to take forever to arrive.

The biblical stories are familiar and well-worn. They have tinges of memories associated with them. They have been heard before. Once in a while, there is something new and fresh, vital and surprising about the stories; more usually, though, they are retold with a rehearsed expectation and familiarity. They are, after all, part of the celebrated canon. They are a given.

Yet, at the very same time, it is the richness found in the retelling that offers a breath for new life. That which is well-worn is revitalized through an intimacy in a deep and abiding recollection of what is true and good, honorable and pure. Autumn liturgy is a time for homecoming, a coming home to Christ.

Autumn itself always brings about a number of changes. The seasons are marked by cycles of reversals: the stars shift in the sky; the natural world finds new ways of living. Likewise, school's days begin or end, new calendar years are established, old patterns of living are undertaken. A cabin might be closed for the winter, new windows put up on the house, clothing styles changed—these are marks of a shifting and transitional time.

Even though this change is apparent, it takes different ears and eyes to notice that the changes are not always dramatic or even recognizable. Conversion is much the same, seldom happening in an earth-shaking way. More often, transformation takes place in the ways that are hidden in the heart.

Perhaps it is the time of year to look for the subtle and simple nuances that contribute to a common faith. Perhaps it is the time of the year to revisit those aspects of faith that are considered understood and agreed upon. That would give an opportunity to interrogate and discover anew the richness of a life lived within the liturgy of the church.

To investigate the pattern of the liturgy might be a good place to start. To see the possibilities within the pattern of gathering, receiving, experiencing, and sending through the word and sacraments affords the chance of liturgical formation. This is not to say that everything ought to be explained in great detail. That kind of didactic teaching can rob the liturgy of its multiple meanings. Rather, to reflect briefly in a homily or in a Sunday bulletin about the pattern that shapes community life—that might be the way to look anew at what is given, to see afresh what is gift. Liturgical formation is reflecting on how an understanding of the liturgy can help to shape the Christian life.

Patterns of formation are abundantly present in the texts for this time of year: teachings and healings, parables and ponderings. This was the reason Jesus gathered people together, to shape both their understanding and their living—to form them as children of God. This is the task of any catechesis: to shape individuals as individuals and to shape them all into one community.

Likewise, to revisit the historic creeds and confessions provides another opportunity to eke out new and profound commitments to the oldest expressions of faith to which the church attests. It might be the right time to look at the Small Catechism. Or work more intentionally with the church year's lesser festivals and commemorations. Working in consultation with ecumenical partners, the lengthy Pentecost season provides ample chances to explore common convictions and unique gifts.

It could also be the time of year to consider exploring hymnody at a greater depth. Telling the stories of composers or poets or

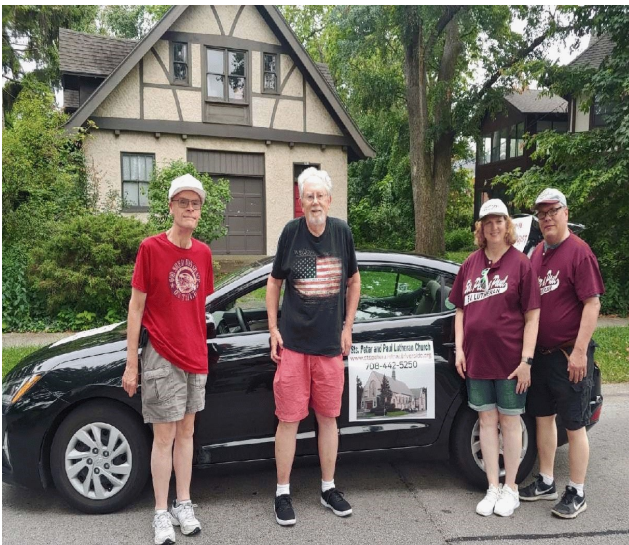
bringing a practicing composer or poet to the congregation would add layers of meaning to all of the hymns. Calling upon musicians and artists in the community to share their talents and understandings could be a way to enhance appreciation for the old but new story.

In Christ, what is old can become new. That is why the liturgical year has a lengthy time of reflecting on the saving and redemptive work of the Christ who lives in the daily-ness of existence. Using the ordinary to usher in the extraordinary, drawing attention to the commonplace to bring to light the uncommon truth, pointing beyond the seen to the unseen, these are the tasks during autumn liturgy. When, for instance, the community gathers around a paten with some bread on it and a chalice with some wine in it, mystery across time speaks. The servers hold the real presence of Christ's body and blood which time itself cannot hold.

Antiques have value not only for how they function, but for how they form a frame of reference for our experience. They have stood the test of time with generations of hands cleaning them faithfully, wiping dust from them. Old beds have been wrapped in blankets of prayers providing rest and refreshment to generations. An antique clock speaks about the confirmation or the wedding that was the occasion of its giving. The sideboard recounts the sustenance that has been prepared by generations. Through the subtle changes that are seen in the common and ordinary, a deepening and abiding faith is nurtured and sustained.

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Independence Day in Riverside



Representing the congregation in the Riverside Independence Day Parade were Tim and Deanna Forney and Fred Kuzel and Chuck Matthies.

Good Soil

Every moment and every event of every person's life on earth plants something in her or his soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of men and women. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the good soil of freedom, spontaneity and love (Thomas Merton).

Congregation Welcomes the Wilson's at Mid-Summer Outdoor Worship



The congregation welcomed Andrew and Sarah Wilson, ELCA sponsored missionaries in Japan, on Sunday, August 4th at outdoor worship.

Passages

Helenka E. Gaydusek, 82 years old, mother of Karole and James, passed from this life on July 31st. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on August 7th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment was a Bohemian National Cemetery.

Mary Frances Mason, 73 year old mother of Michele and Melanie, and sister to Pastor Dennis, passed from this life on July 1st in Des Moines, Iowa. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Pocahontas, Iowa. Interment was in Moorhead, Iowa at Ingemann Danish Lutheran Cemetery.

Dolores "Dolly" Krc, 95 years old, aunt of Dr. Robert Kany and Elizabeth "Liz" Rouck, passed from this life on June 16th. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held at Hitzeman Funeral Home on June 19th with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.



Psalm of Creation

It is the first psalm I ever wrote, being struck by the attitude of prayer by turning east, and thinking first of the natural world and its wonders—the earth in all its beauty. But there is as much to wonder at in the world of human creation, and the various jobs that people do, for creativity is also seen in the way we live our lives.

—John Hammersley

As I look to the east I praise you, my God:
from the rising of the sun you uphold my life;
when the sun goes down again I give you thanks:
you are my strength from beginning to end.
The whole created universe shares in our praise and gratitude:
for you have made all that is, whether seen or unseen -
hill and valley, tree and flower:
the earth in all its beauty is yours;
earthquake and storm, wind and flood, keep us in awe of you:
the power of the lightning is also your creation.
The workman labours with the sweat of his brow:
he shares in your redemptive work;
the secretary and teacher work for you:
those who use their mind and imagination -
the executive making important decisions:
those who care for others and serve our needs.
All whose work is hard, toil with your blessing:
those who find fulfilment in work can see it as part of your
purpose.
So can we all in more humble activities:
as cleaner, sweeper, gardener or child.
Those whom society rejects are in your special care:
and those who have no place in a world of work;
without them your creation would be incomplete:
your plan includes our work and our unemployment.
Jesus was friend of the poor and outcast:
he was also a carpenter working for his living.
We thank you, Holy Spirit, for your gift of enterprise:
the spark of your creative power.
For your love builds us all together:
and shows us how to make one another great.

“Psalms of Life” is a collection of modern psalms written by John Hammersley. It is a resource for Christian worship, or private prayer and inspiration.

Directory Update

Rafael Martinez
1040 Compton Pointe
Addison, IL 60101

Altar Flowers

July 28th: In memory of +Anne+ and +Jacob Drahos+ by their remembering family.



Open Air Worship in the Church Gardens with the Blessing of Animals Sunday, October 6th in Observance of the Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church, died 1226 (October 4th)

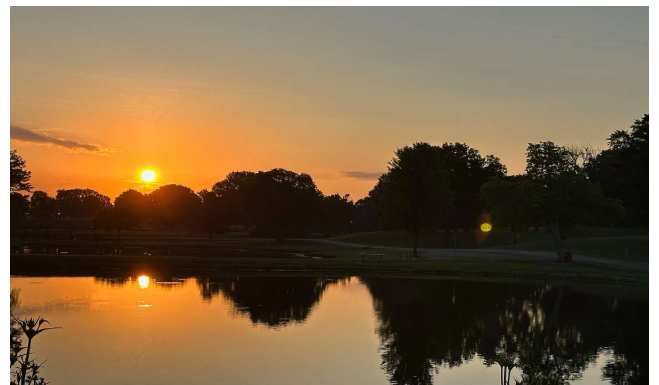


Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. In a public confrontation with his father, he renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being “wedded to Lady Poverty.” Under his leadership the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) was formed, and they took literally Jesus’ words to his disciples that they should take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work. Their task in preaching was to “use words if necessary.” Francis had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God’s creation. This commemoration has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. A prayer and a hymn attributed to St. Francis are included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 87, #835).

The liturgy on October 6th will include a blessing of animals, so feel free to bring your pets to worship with us that day.

Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

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Sunrise on the solstice at Lake Story near Galesburg.

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DATED MATERIAL

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We are delighted to be starting our 11th year of preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul. We hope all of you have had a great summer!

Preschool begins on Wednesday, September 4th and our theme this year will be “Swinging into Preschool” with our mascot Marley the Monkey. We will be learning all about him and sports and exercise.

We will be going bananas this school year!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director



Blessing of Teachers and Students

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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An electronic copy of this newsletter is
posted at our website
and can be accessed at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

What We Don't See

Though you wouldn't know it in most of the churches of Europe or North America, the twenty-first century is a time of rapid expansion for Christianity. In 1900, there were 1,833 million professing Christians. By [the] year 2016, conservative estimates say that there [were] probably 2,500 million Christians. David Barrett, one of our best statisticians of Christianity, estimates that Christians are about thirty-five percent of the world's people.

Evangelical Christians have been the beneficiaries of most of this growth. While it is difficult to be precise about the exact numbers of Christian growth, Barrett has estimated that the number of committed “Great Commission” (Matthew 28) Christians is growing at seven percent a year—more than twice as fast as the total world population. Mission scholar Ralph Winter says that while there were approximately twenty-one non-Christians for every “Bible-believing” evangelical Christian in 1950, by 2000 the ratio was less than six to one.

Pentecostal and charismatic churches have enjoyed spectacular growth in the past century. In 1970 there were seventy million. Twenty-two years later, they had increased more than five hundred percent to 410 million. Barrett says that by 2000, Pentecostal and charismatic Christians numbered 560 million.

The rapid, dramatic expansion of Christianity in Asia and Africa is well known. In 1900 at least seventy-five percent of all Christians were Caucasians in Europe, North America, and Russia. By 2000, around sixty percent of all Christians lived outside those traditionally “Christian” areas. Christians in Africa, Asia, and Latin America increased thirteen hundred percent in one hundred years to over 1.2 billion people.

A key factor in this Christian growth is that, while the number of missionaries sent from Western countries has shrunk, missionaries sent from third world countries are increasing astonishingly. There are today around 50,000 third world missionaries at work in countries other than their native lands.

(From Ronald J. Sider, *One-Sided Christianity? Uniting the Church to Heal a Lost and Broken World* [San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1993]).



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

September 1st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: John Kostelny

September 8th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

September 15th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

September 22nd:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

September 29th:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Edward and Joanne Sefara

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

October 6th: (Outdoor Service)

Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Communion Assts: Tom Myers and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez

October 13th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

October 20th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: J. T. Tarbox
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

October 27th:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Janice Hapgood

Happy Labor Day

PLEASE NOTE:

Contribution statements for the first half of 2024 will be mailed from the church office **upon request**. Call Karen at (708) 442-5250 or send an e-mail to office@stpeterandpaulriverside.org

Outdoor Worship this Autumn

October 6th with Blessing of Animals
in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi,
renewer of the church, died 1226



Donations to Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church can now be made using the Zelle service from your bank. For some, this may provide a more convenient way to donate on a regular weekly basis as well as before or after an event or for a special occasion. This service should not charge you or the church a service fee, avoids the need for a paper check, and gets your donation to the church as quickly as possible. Other ways of donating continue to be gratefully received. Here are some easy steps to follow: Zelle is supported by most banking applications, rather than being a standalone app. You simply go to your online banking website or phone app, go to the Zelle interface, and add Sts. Peter and Paul as a recipient via our e-mail address: donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org. From there, you may send any amount of money with a note as to what it is for. The money will automatically be accepted into our account. We will get a notification at that e-mail address that you have done so. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.—*Tom Myers*



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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sept. 3 Martin Pennino | Sept. 17 Maycee Gillund |
| Sept. 5 Ezekiel Wilson | Benjamin Smith |
| Sept. 7 Nathan Byrne | Sept. 18 Isabella Myers |
| Sept. 9 Julie Barcik | Sebastian Myers |
| Sept. 10 John Jakubec | Sept. 22 Angeline Gomez |
| Sept. 11 Janice Decosola | Sept. 23 Devin Cathey |
| Jon Hapgood | Ella Cathey |
| Dennis Horacek | Sept. 24 Betty Bagel |
| Alexandra Miller | John Broussard |
| Sept. 15 Deborah Jech | Sept. 27 James Gaydusek |
| Sept. 16 Linda McShane | Charles Matthies |
| | Sept. 30 Beverly Podzamsky |

Memorials and Honorariums

✦ For the Church ✦

John and Lisa Wenzelman, in memory of +Dolores Krc+.
 In memory of dear aunt and great-aunt +Dolores Krc+, by Dr. Robert Kany, Mark and Liz, Dr. John and Caroline, and Lauren Rouck.
 William Boor, in memory of dear mother +Irene Boor+ on the anniversary of her birth on August 16th.
 Magda Babej and her family from Slovakia and USA, in memory of son +Paul Babej+ on the anniversary of his passing.
 David and Debbie Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike Wood, and Larry and Sue Kusch, in loving memory of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother +Shirley Wood+ on the anniversary of her birth.
 Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study.
 Susan Yurik and Joe Kaslauskas, in memory of +Dotty Krc+.
 Sue Renville
 In loving memory of +Paul Gavac+ on the anniversary of his passing by the estate of +Anne Gavac+.

✦ In Memory of Mary Frances Mason ✦

John and Shirley Kostelny
 Mark and Liz Rouck
 Suzanna Skudrna
 Ann Kmet

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 5, 1998: Thomas and Lavinia Myers
 September 6, 1997: Matthew and Janice Decosola
 September 9, 2009: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
 September 12, 2020: Zachary and Jeanean Sawyer
 September 13, 2014: Susan and Robert Gillund
 September 14 2002: Michelle and William Ruska
 September 18, 2010: Peter and Gandy Drahos
 September 19, 2009: Christopher and Laura Teter
 September 24, 2000: James and Sandra Gaydusek
 September 30, 1995: Adriana and Branislav Kubo



Dear Loving Father,

We pause to remember the great losses and courageous acts of September 11th. We lift up those who are still affected—families of the victims, police officers, firefighters, first responders, and all who were involved. We pray for the light of Christ to flood the hearts of people everywhere. We believe You desire to redeem Your creation, and we trust that beauty will continue to come from the ashes of those dark days. Surround us with Your mighty angels of protection, give us compassion for one another in all of life's circumstances, and instill in us the courage to answer Your call. Amen

June 2024

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00

Date	Offering
6/2	\$1,880.00
6/9	\$ 890.00
6/16	\$2,037.00
6/23	\$1,214.00
6/30	\$6,330.00

July 2024

Date	Offering
7/7	\$1,375.00
7/14	\$ 755.00
7/21	\$3,440.00
7/28	\$1,916.00